**IDENTITY / UTOPIA-DYSTOPIA ACADEMIC SENIOR THEME ENGLISH COURSE**

**INSTRUCTOR: MRS. RICHTER brichter@boyertownasd.org**

CLASS WIKI SPACE:

[http://Richter-identity-dystopia-12thgrade.wikispaces.com](http://richter-identity-dystopia-12thgrade.wikispaces.com/)

THE SITE CAN ALSO BE ACCESESSED THROUGH THE BOYERTOWN HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT HOME PAGE. CLICK ON TEACHER’S NAME. THE CLASS WIKI SITE HAS HELPFUL SUPPORTS AND DUE DATE REMINDERS. NO EXCUSES FOR ANY TYPE OF ASSIGNMENT NOT COMPLETED ON TIME. “I DID NOT KNOW” IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE EVEN IF ABSENT OR LATE TO CLASS..

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Welcome to Identity and Utopia/Dystopia Senior Theme Seminar.

You will be applying and evaluating what you read by discussing, writing , listening, and researching while analyzing many different factors regarding identity and societal concerns regarding fictional and real life dystopian characteristics. You will be synthesizing how common ideas are found across the variety of texts you will be reading. You must read assignments and be prepared to discuss in small and large groups. You also will be writing a variety of small papers and expected to hand in all assignments on time.

**MATERIALS Needed Every Day**

* Binder
* Pens, pencils
* Completed assignments
* The Text we are reading
* Flashdrive
* Notebook

**CLASS RULES**

1. You will give full respect to your teachers, peers, yourself , and the classroom.
2. ALL students are entitled to a safe learning environment
3. \* If a typed assignment is due, come to class with it already printed.
4. Come to class prepared. YOU MUST READ. You must be prepared to discuss the reading / writing assignment.
5. YOU must work in class. Not acceptable to say work will be done at home. Forgetting flash drive at home is not an acceptable excuse.

**\***PRINTER PROBLEMS- NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE FOR NOT SUBMITING AN ASSIGNMENT ON THE PROPER DUE DATE.

**GRADING /ASSESSMENTS**

Your grade is based on the total amount of points you earn in each marking period. A variety of assessments are utilized such as but not limited to- essays, quizzes, reflections/blogs, presentations, journals, class participation/ assignments, homework. It is YOUR responsibility to keep track of your progress.

**HOMEWORK**

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE TO WRITE DOWN ALL OF YOUR ASSIGNMENTS. LATE HOMEWORK WILL START AT 60%. HOMEWORK IS DUE AT THE **START** OF THE PERIOD OR CONSIDERED LATE. YOU NEED TO SEE ME IF ANTICIPATING NOT BEING IN SCHOOL TO FIND OUT THE ASSIGNMENTS.

**ESSAYS**

THE GRADE DROPS ONE WHOLE LETTER GRADE FOR EACH DAY LATE

A PAPER RECEIVING 95 RECEIVES AN 85 FOR ONE DAY LATE AND SO ON .

SEE ME IMMEDIATELY IF YOU FORSEE PROBLEMS MEETING A DEADLINE OR TO RECEIVE INDIVIDUALIZED HELP.

**ABSENCES / TARDIES**

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING OUT WHAT YOU MISSED IF ABSENT OR LATE. ASSIGNMENTS KNOWN BEFORE THE ABSENCE WILL BE COLLECTED ON THE DAY YOU RETURN. OTHERWISE THE ASSIGNMENT IS LATE. IF YOU KNOW YOU WILL BE ABSENT, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO SPEAK TO ME BEFORE THE ABSENCE TO FIND OUT WHAT IS DUE THE DAY YOU RETURN.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

**CHEATING**

COPYING CLASSWORK OR HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS IS AN AUTOMATIC ZERO.. IT IS TO BE YOUR OWN ORIGINAL WORK AND NOT WORKING TOGETHER. CHEATING INCLUDES THE ABOVE , BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, USING ‘CHEAT SHEETS’ ON TESTS AND QUIZZES, COPYING INFORMATION FROM THE INTERNET, OR COPYING ANSWERS FROM ANOTHER STUDENT’S WORK.

IF YOU PLAGARIZE, YOU WILL RECEIVE A ZERO FOR THE PROJECT.

**TURNTIN.COM**

ALL FORMAL WORK WILL BE UPLOADED TO TURNITIN.COM. YOU WILL RECEIVE REGISTRATION DIRECTIONS.

**TUTORING**

I AM WILLING TO MEET IN THE MORNING AND AFTER SCHOOL. . DO NOT WAIT TILL THE LAST TWO WEEKS OF THE QUARTER. THE TIME MUST BE ARRANGED AND MUTUALLY AGREED UPON.

**Essential Questions and Enduring Understandings will be the foundation for all your course work.**

**FIRST SEMESTER:**

**Overarching Enduring Understanding:**

**IDENTITY:**

1. People portray themselves as having a particular identity based upon their upbringing and environment.
2. People portray themselves as having a particular identity based upon their experiences with others.
3. People portray themselves as having a particular identity based upon their acceptance or rejection of the societal norms.

**Essential Questions:**

**IDENTITY:**

1. How does one balance individual freedom with a responsibility to society?
2. What impact does environment have on identity?
3. How do cultural and familial values influence one’s identity?
4. How do interpersonal relationships contribute to one’s identity?

**SECOND SEMESTER:**

**Overarching Enduring Understandings:**

**Utopia/Dystopia:**

1. The presence or absence of meaningful human relationships defines the quality of a society
2. Those who control the information control the society
3. Technology has the potential to free society or enslave it.

**Essential Questions:**

**Utopia/ Dystopia:**

1. To what extent is a utopian society possible?
2. In what ways does society impact and influence one’s relationships?
3. Where can one draw the line between technology that gives one autonomy versus technology that makes one dependent on things outside oneself?

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